

## REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown to Applicants' representative, Josh C. Snider, in the series of telephone interviews concluding on November 23, 2004. This same series of telephone interviews also included a substantive discussion and agreement surrounding the issues in a related case, Application Serial No. 09/663,580, and a summary of that agreement was included in Supplemental Amendment G, filed December 3, 2004, in that related case. Agreement was also reached with respect to the present case, and is summarized as follows.

Proposed amendments to independent claim 150 of the present invention were discussed in relation to the Lien reference (U.S. 5,309,264) and the Hirata reference (U.S. 5,953,093). Agreement was reached that the proposed claim amendments submitted to the Examiner were sufficient to overcome all of the outstanding rejections of record with respect to independent claim 150. Specifically, the Examiner agreed that the Hirata reference does not teach or suggest that Hirata's protrusions can regulate the azimuths of orientation of liquid crystal molecules according to a shape of the protrusions, when the azimuths of orientation are defined as angles of alignment of the molecules in the plane of the substrates. Accordingly, independent claim 150 is formally amended herein to more clearly recite such features, and as proposed to the Examiner and agreed upon.

As a second preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the previous acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 159-180, 186, 193, 195-199, 205-206, 214-218, 228-229, and 230-240.

Claims 150-158, 181-184, 185, 187-190, 192, 194, 200-203, 207-213, 221-222, and 225 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lien in view of Hirata. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above. Independent claim 150 has been amended according to the proposed language from the series of telephone interviews referenced above, which amended claim language the Examiner agreed would overcome this rejection. All of the remaining rejected claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 150, and should therefore also be in condition for allowance for the same reasons, because all of these claims include at least the features of the base claim, as well as additional features.

With respect to the Examiner's comments on claims 204, 219-220, 223-224, and 227, Applicants presume that these claims are also now in condition for allowance, since they are all either directly or indirectly dependent from independent claim 150, and because the Examiner has not rejected or restricted these claims in any way. With respect to claim 204 in particular, at least two process steps are clearly indicated in the language of claim 204, and not one, as asserted by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the remaining claims should also be accorded patentable weight.

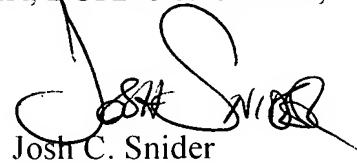
With respect to claims 191 and 226, which were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn toward a different species, Applicants submit that these claims should also now be in condition for allowance, as also directly or indirectly dependent from independent claim 150.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 150-240, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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